

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY BRANCH
BLOOD LEAD PROFICIENCY ASSURANCE PROGRAM
Telephone (510) 620-2876 FAX: (510) 620-2825

A SUMMARY OF THE CBLPAP PROFICIENCY CRITERIA FOR BLOOD LEAD ANALYSIS

1. A laboratory participating in the California Blood Lead Proficiency Assurance Program (CBLPAP) is considered proficient in blood lead analysis if at least 80% of its evaluated proficiency test results as reported to EHLB by the proficiency test provider are rated satisfactory by the California Department of Health Services Environmental Health Laboratory Branch (EHLB) for at least two out of the three most recent consecutive four-month Evaluation Periods. For laboratories evaluated on the basis of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Blood Lead Survey, only their test results for specimens formally evaluated by CAP are considered by EHLB for the CBLPAP evaluation. For laboratories evaluated on the basis of the WSLH Regulatory 5-sample HCFA-approved Program, only their test results for specimens for which consensus is attained are considered by EHLB for the CBLPAP evaluation.
2. A new laboratory joining the program is considered proficient if a satisfactory rating is attained on at least 80% of its proficiency test results, as reported to EHLB by the proficiency test provider and as evaluated by EHLB, either for the initial Evaluation Period or for one of the two most recent Evaluation Periods, when two have been completed. A laboratory is considered new to our program until it has completed three Evaluation Periods.
3. A participating laboratory is considered nonproficient and removed from the list of proficient laboratories if it fails to attain a satisfactory rating on at least 80% of its test results, as reported to EHLB by the proficiency test provider and as evaluated by EHLB, for two out of three consecutive Evaluation Periods.
4. A laboratory that has been rated nonproficient and removed from the list of proficient laboratories will be considered proficient and restored to the list only after it has attained a satisfactory rating on at least 80% of its test results, as reported to EHLB by the proficiency test provider and as evaluated by EHLB, for each of two consecutive Evaluation Periods.
5. An individual proficiency test sample result is judged satisfactory if the reported value is within 10% of the target value for samples with lead concentrations greater than 40 µg/dL and plus or minus 4 µg/dL for samples with lead concentrations equal to or less than 40 µg/dL.

Participating laboratories are evaluated triannually. A report of the evaluation is sent to each laboratory and an updated list of proficient laboratories is released for each four month Evaluation Period after all of the participating laboratories' results have been received by and evaluated by EHLB as summarized above and as defined in other communications to the laboratories. A laboratory must be currently designated proficient in blood lead analysis by this proficiency assurance program and must appear on the most recent list of proficient laboratories to do any blood lead testing for any program administered by the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch (CLPPB) or any blood lead testing which is reimbursed through the Child Health and Disability (CHDP) program.